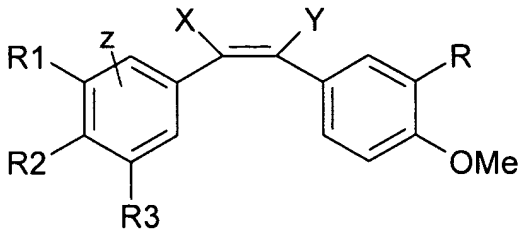
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



wherein:

R_1, R_2 and R_3, which can be the same or different, are H, OMe, NO_2, NHR';

X and Y~~, different each other,~~ are halogen or H with at least one of them being halogen;

Z = H or halogen

R = OH, OPO_3Na_2, $OCH_2OPO_3Na_2$, ~~OR',~~ NO_2, NHR';

R' = H, alkyl (C_1-C_6), $(COCHR"NH)_n$-H;

R" = H, an amino acid side chain, Ph;

n an integer comprised between 1 and 3;

their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, racemates and single enantiomers.

2. (original) A compound according to Claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

a compound wherein at least one of X and Y is halogen, R_1-R_3 are methoxy, and R is hydroxy;

a compound wherein at least one of X and Y is halogen, R_1-R_3 are methoxy, R is amino or substituted amino;

a compound wherein at least one of X and Y is halogen, R_1-R_3 are different from methoxy, R is hydroxy;

a compound wherein R is OPO_3Na_2 and

a compound wherein R' is $(COCHR"NH)_n$-H.

3. (previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R" is the side chain of a natural amino acid.

4. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

X = Y = F; R = OPO_3Na_2: difluorocombretastatin;

X = Y = F; R = NH_2: difluoroaminocombretastatin;

X = H; Y = F; R = OPO_3Na_2: monofluorocombretastatin;

X = F; Y = H; R = OPO_3Na_2: monofluorocombretastatin;

X = H; Y = F; R = NH_2: monofluoroaminocombretastatin;

X = F; Y = H; R = NH_2: monofluoroaminocombretastatin.

X= Br; Y=F; R= OPO_3Na_2 bromofluorocombretastatin

5. (original) A process for the preparation of the compounds of Claim 1, wherein X and Y are both F comprising the following steps:

a) reaction of 1-bromo-1,2-difluoro-2-(4-methoxy-3-(protected OH)-phenyl)ethene with 3-R_1-4-R_2-5-R_3-phenylboronic acid, and

b) restoring the 3-(protected OH) group.

6. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X and Y is F and the other one is hydrogen, comprises the following steps:

a) bromofluorination of the compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H, and

b) base-promoted HBr elimination.

7. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X and Y is F, comprising the following steps:

a) transformation of compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H into the respective bromohydrin, and

b) base-promoted HBr elimination.

8. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X and Y is F, comprising the following steps:

a) transformation of compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H into the respective epoxide;

b) epoxide opening to give the respective bromohydrin, and

c) base-promoted HBr elimination, or in alternative,

d) epoxide opening to give the respective fluorohydrin, and

e) elimination of the opportune hydroxyl derivative.

9. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X or Y is F and the other is Br, comprising the following steps:

a) transformation of compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H into the respective

bromohydrin, and

b) base-promoted HBr elimination.

10. (currently amended) ~~The use of the compounds of Claim 1 for the recognition and binding to the~~A method of inhibiting tubulin ~~site~~polymerization comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

11.-12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended) ~~The use according to Claim 12, wherein said pathological state is~~ A method of treating a tumour comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

14. (currently amended) The ~~[[use]]~~method according to Claim 13, wherein said tumour is selected from the group consisting of sarcoma, carcinoma, carcinoid, bone tumour, neuroendocrine tumour, lymphoid leukaemia, acute promyelocytic leukaemia, myeloid leukaemia, monocytic leukaemia, megakaryoblastic leukaemia, ~~[[and]]~~ non Hodgkin's disease, hemangiomas and multiple myeloma, anaplastic thyroid cancer.

15. (currently amended) ~~Use of compounds,~~The method according to claim ~~[[5]]~~13, ~~[[as]]~~wherein the compound is used as an antimetastatic ~~agents~~agent.

16. (currently amended) The ~~[[use]]~~method according to Claim ~~[[12]]~~15, wherein said ~~pathological state~~tumor is caused by abnormal angiogenesis.

17. (currently amended) The ~~[[use]]~~method according to Claim 16, wherein said ~~pathological state caused by~~ abnormal angiogenesis is selected from the group consisting of tumour metastases; arthritic disease; diabetic retinopathy; macular degeneration, psoriasis; chronic inflammatory diseases ~~[[or]]~~and arteriosclerosis.

18. (currently amended) ~~The use according to Claim 12, wherein said pathological states is~~ The method of treating a non-neoplastic disease comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

19. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least a compound of Claim 1, in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or excipient.

20. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein the non-neoplastic disease is ischemia-induced proliferative retinopathy.